

Robbi Nester

Catch and Release

As a child, I'd take long car rides
with my parents. Bored with the miles,
the tedium of being an only child,
I would play a game of my devising,
tipping a small round mirror to the sky,
trying to capture the moon.
I thought if I could catch it
in the frame of this small mirror,
make it stay, I could keep it
captive in a jar, as I had butterflies
and moths, fireflies flashing
their sullen yellow signals.
I marveled that it followed us,
even when we crossed the border
into Canada. It fled my mirror too.
Bound to earth, I had to
let it go, until this moment,
when I catch it in a net
of words and hold it
for a while, before it sails away

Robbi Nester is the author of three books of poetry, including a chapbook, *Balance* (White Violet, 2012) and two collections: *A Likely Story* (Moon Tide, 2014) and *Other-Wise* (Kelsay, 2017). She also edited two anthologies: *The Liberal Media Made Me Do It!* (Nine Toes, 2014) and an ekphrastic e-anthology, *Over the Moon: Birds, Beasts, and Trees--celebrating the photography of Beth Moon* (accessible at <http://www.poemeleon.org/over-the-moon-birds-beasts-and>). Her poetry, essays, reviews, and web posts have appeared in many journals, anthologies, and weblogs.